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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,630	04/21/2006	Noriyoshi Sato	40271	5770
53054 7590 04/07/2008 PEARNE & GORDON LLP 1801 EAST 9TH STREET SUITE 1200 CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108				
EXAMINER SHEDRICK, CHARLES TERRELL				
ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER 2617				
NOTIFICATION DATE DELIVERY MODE 04/07/2008 ELECTRONIC				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/576,630

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

CHARLES SHEDRICK

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/55/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 26 recites the limitation "the plurality of connecting plates" in lines 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 14-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kauhaniemi et al. US Patent pub. No.: 2004/0266496 A1, hereinafter, "Kauhaniemi"

Consider **claim 14**, Kauhaniemi teaches a connecting device comprising: a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and foldably connects two housing portions separated from each other by a predetermined distance (**paragraphs 0043-0044 and figure 14**); wherein the bendable member is a thin plate having an arc shape in sectional view (**paragraphs 0043-0044 and figure 14**).

Consider **claim 15**, Kauhaniemi teaches a connecting device comprising: a joint members having flexibility on which two housing portions are fixed at a predetermined gap (**see housing portions in figure 5 and 6 with respect to element 13**); and a bendable member which has enough restoring force and rigidity to restore a bent state to an unbent state and is attached to the two housing portions so as to be overlapped with the two housing portions(**see housing portions**

in figure 5 and 6 with respect to element 13).

Consider **claim 20**, Kauhaniemi teaches a connecting device comprising: a connecting portion which foldably connects two housing portions (**paragraphs 0043-0044 and figures and or 14**); a flexible wiring member which connects the two housing portions such that they can communicate with each other(**paragraphs 0043-0044 and figures and or 14**); and a receiving antenna which is connected to one of the two housing portions (**e.g., inherent with respect to the mobile phone as discussed in paragraph 0014**).

Consider **claim 25**, Kauhaniemi teaches a folding portable terminal apparatus comprising: an upper housing portion which has a display unit provided therein (**e.g., see figures 5 and 6**); a lower housing portion which has an operating unit provided therein (**e.g., a keypad of a mobile phone figure 5 and 6**); and a connecting portion which foldably connects the upper housing portion and the lower housing portion, wherein the connecting portion includes a plurality of connecting plates each having a curved portion that is curved on an axis parallel to a connecting direction thereof (**e.g., see 13 of figures 5 and 6 with respect to figures 13 and/or 14 as described in paragraphs 0043 and 0044**).

Consider **claim 16 and as applied to claim 14**, Kauhaniemi teaches wherein the bendable member is attached to the two housing portions(**e.g., see figure 6**), with a concave portion thereof oriented in a direction where the two housing portions are folded(**e.g., see figure 6**).

Consider **claim 17 and as applied to claim 15**, Kauhaniemi teaches wherein the bendable member is mounted to the two housing portions(**e.g., see figure 6**), with a concave portion thereof oriented in a direction where the two housing portions are folded(**e.g., see figure**

6).

Consider **claim 18 and as applied to claim 15**, Kauhaniemi teaches wherein the joint members has a folding force generating means for generating folding force to hold the folded state of the housing portions at a substantially central region thereof corresponding to the gap between the two housing portions (**e.g., see paragraph 0006**).

Consider **claim 19 and as applied to claim 15**, Kauhaniemi teaches wherein the joint members includes a stopper that is bent to temporarily hold the folded state of the two housing portions(i.e., the stopper is generated by the elastic force) (**paragraph 0037**).

Consider **claim 21** Kauhaniemi teaches two housing portions (**e.g., see figures 5 and 6**); and the connecting device according to claim 14 that foldably connects the two housing portions(**e.g., see figures 5 and 6**).

Consider **claim 22 and as applied to claim 20**, Kauhaniemi teaches the claimed invention further comprising; a display unit that is provided in one of the two housing portions (**e.g., the display unit of mobile phone in figures 5 and 6**); and an operating unit that is provided in the other housing portion **e.g., the keypad of mobile phone in figures 5 and 6**), wherein, when the two housing portions are in a folded state, the display unit and the operating unit are arranged opposite to each other (**e.g., see figures 5 and 6**).

Consider **claim 23 and as applied to claim 20**, Kauhaniemi teaches wherein the bendable member has a curved shape in sectional view (**e.g., see curvature in member 13 of figure 6**), both ends of the bendable member in the longitudinal direction are fixed to leading ends of bosses provided on the two housing portions (**e.g., see figures 1 and 2**), and the leading ends of the bosses have spherical shapes(**e.g., see figures 1 and 2**).

Consider **claim 24 and as applied to claim 20**, Kauhaniemi teaches wherein the bendable member has a curved shape in sectional view(e.g., see **figures 1 and 2**), both ends of the bendable member in the longitudinal direction are fixed to leading ends of bosses provided on the two housing portions(e.g., see **figures 1 and 2**), and the leading ends of the bosses each have R portions opposite to each other(e.g., see **figures 1 and 2**).

Consider **claim 26**, Kauhaniemi teaches wherein folding portable terminal apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of connecting plates overlap each other(e.g., see **figures 2 and/ or 13 and 14**).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHARLES SHEDRICK whose telephone number is (571)272-8621. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harper Paul can be reached on (571)-272-7605. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/VINCENT P. HARPER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/Charles Shedrick/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617
March 28, 2008